

MEMORIAL

OF A

NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS CO.,
NEW YORK,

*Praying an examination of that place in reference to the selection of a
site for a National Foundry.*

JUNE 5, 1838.

Laid on the table, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States in Congress assembled :*

The memorial of a number of citizens of the county of Dutchess, in the
State of New York,

RESPECTFULLY REPRESENTS :

That the undersigned have learned, with great satisfaction, that it is the intention of the General Government to establish one or more national foundries for the casting of cannon and other munitions of war, for the general protection of our common country, and that the places at which such foundries shall be established will soon occupy the attention of your honorable bodies.

The undersigned, with great confidence, apply to your honorable bodies, in the selection of suitable sites for such establishments, to give to Poughkeepsie, in the county beforementioned, a favorable consideration ; and, being aware that no selection will be definitely made without an examination by a committee or commissioners competent to the task, we indulge a hope, from the considerations which we shall in part present to you, that such committee or commissioners may be instructed to examine this place, among others, that the advantages of a location here may be more satisfactorily determined on by those who shall be selected for that purpose.

Poughkeepsie is located on the east bank of the Hudson river, about 75 miles north of the city of New York, and about 23 miles north of West Point, with a population of about 9,000. The Hudson river to, and for miles north of, Poughkeepsie, is safely navigable for ships of any burden which can arrive at the port of New York, during every month of the year, except from two to two and a half of the winter months. From this place cannon and other munitions of war may be transported, without transshipment, to any port of any of the Atlantic States, and also north, through the Erie canal, to Lake Erie, and from thence, by means of the lakes, canals, and railroads, to many of the northwestern and western

States, with an easier and less expensive transportation than almost from any other place in the Union; and at all times would the foundry and establishment be protected from invasion and destruction by a foreign enemy, by the forts and fortifications in and in the vicinity of the city of New York and of West Point.

Poughkeepsie is the capital of Dutchess county, one of the oldest counties in this State, and we shall not be deemed invidious in saying, what all who are acquainted with the State admit, that it is one of the most fertile, highly cultivated, and wealthy counties within our borders; furnishing abundant means of living, and at as reasonable a rate as can be furnished in any place where the Government would think of locating such an establishment. On this subject we would refer to the annual report of the inspector of grain in the city of New York, which furnishes some interesting official evidence of the auspicious rank occupied by old Dutchess among her sister counties. From this report it appears, that of all the grain received into the city, from every place, one-quarter was supplied by Dutchess county; being 838,043 bushels. Besides this, large quantities of grain are sent directly to the several towns on the New England seaboard, and large quantities of corn, rye, and oats are ground and sent to New York in the meal, which are not embraced in the inspector's report; if they had been, the whole amount sent abroad would not have been less than 1,300,000 bushels.

We forbear entering into detail, and cannot deem it necessary to state, with particularity, the immense quantities of *beef, pork,* and every other article of production which is annually raised in this county; nor can it be necessary to particularize the two hundred and ninety manufacturing establishments in our county, the capital therein invested, nor the amount or value of the manufactured articles annually produced thereat.

Our water is abundant, and of excellent quality; and we rejoice in being able to say that no place can be found so exempt from any contagious or malignant diseases, and where the people enjoy better health.

In our neighborhood, and in this county, are inexhaustible beds of *hematite* ore, which produce iron of the best quality—iron which has been transported from this place to, we believe, almost all the national armories in the United States. The largest anchors are made at Salisbury and Canaan, in our vicinity, and our iron is generally preferred by the eastern whalers on account of its superior quality. We would beg leave, on this subject, to refer to the report of Professor Beck on the mineralogical and chemical department of the geological survey of this State, made pursuant to a recent law, to his excellency Governor Marcy; it will be found in the Assembly documents of 1837, No. 161, on pages 35, 36, and 37, from which we select the following extracts:

"In the county of Dutchess there are most valuable beds of *brown hematite* ore. These I have particularly examined, and I was no less surprised at their great extent than gratified with the flourishing condition of the manufactories established in their vicinity."

In relation to the *Amenia* ore bed, he remarks:

"Passing through Dover Plains, in the vicinity of which are inexhaustible quarries of white and colored marble of excellent quality, we find another deposit of hematite in the northwestern part of the town of *Amenia*. This is truly a magnificent locality, whether we consider the *quality* or the enormous quantity of the ore. Supplies are here obtained for the *Amenia Iron Company*, and for several furnaces in the State of Connecticut

The bed has been opened at various places for the distance of one hundred yards, and the ore presents all the varieties observed at the celebrated Salisbury deposit.

We would beg leave, further, to represent that any quantity of anthracite coal can be obtained at this place from the coal mines in Pennsylvania, through the Delaware and Hudson canal, which empties into the Hudson river about 14 miles north of this place, and charcoal of the best quality, to any desired amount, can be readily procured from this county, from Ulster county, adjoining us on the west, and the borders of the Delaware and Hudson canal; and both the anthracite and charcoal can be contracted to be delivered at this place, of as good a quality, and at as cheap rates, as can be obtained or had at any place which can be deemed suitable for such an establishment.

We would also refer again to the report of Professor Beck, to show the inexhaustible quantity of limestone, an article indispensable in the melting of iron, which abounds in our county and in our vicinity.

Upon the borders of our village runs a never-failing stream of water, called the Fallkill, which, about sixty rods from the Hudson, commences falling at a point about 109 feet above the level of the river, at all seasons producing water sufficient for any purpose for which water-power is used. Between the fall above mentioned and the river, there are a number of falls which can be conveniently adapted to any manufacturing purpose. The land necessary for the use of such an establishment, we have no doubt can be had upon as reasonable terms as can be had at any place offering as many facilities and advantages as this place does. We might enlarge upon the advantages which this place holds out for the location of a foundry here; but we trust enough has been said to justify your honorable bodies in directing those who shall have this matter in charge, to examine this place with the view herein before suggested.

POUGHKEEPSIE, 28th March, 1838.

James Emott
Geo. P. Oakley
Henry Swift
Nathan Conklin
John Barnes
James Bowne
S. B. Trowbridge
Elias Trivett
Gideon P. Hewett
James Vassar, jr.
Henry F. Tallmadge
Howland R. Sherman
Gregory & Hunt
Wm. W. Reynolds
Nathan Arnold
Smith Thompson
Wm. Davies
Chas. Bartlett
John B. Van Wyck
A. G. Storm
H. Conklin

John Armstrong
Robert Wilkinson
C. W. Swift
John G. Parker
Z. N. Hoffman
Aaron Frost
Thos. W. Harvey
Warren Skinner
Wm. A. Davies
J. P. Hurlbert
David C. Foster
Leonard Maison
J. B. Forbus
Alex. Forbus
F. W. Hatch
Wm. Thomas
Jas. E. Slater
J. D. Robinson
E. P. Benjamin
R. North
Jonah Burritt

Charles H. Ruggles

Edward K. James

Egbert Davis
 Aaron Innis
 James Hooker
 David Arnold
 James Reynolds
 S. B. Johnson & Co.
 James Reynolds, jr
 Solomon V. Frost
 W. Cunningham
 J. Van Benthuyssen
 Benj. Arnold
 Wm. D. Abbott
 Wm. Frost
 John F. Hull
 Hiram Veltman
 Thos. Christy
 Saml. B. Johnston
 Thomas M. Vail
 Robt. Mitchell
 Gilbert J. Vincent
 Jb. Rosekraus
 Joseph T. Adriance
 James H. Fonda
 Alexander J. Coffin
 W. W. Woodworth
 Peter P. Hayes
 Egbert B. Killey
 Benson J. Lossing
 Edward J. Boyd

William Schram
 Thomas S. Ramsay
 Thos. Barritt
 Asa S. Clement
 Nicholas Pulier
 Thos. L. Davies
 Abm. Etting
 Joseph H. Jackson
 W. J. Street
 James Mills
 S. Hoffman
 Danl. W. Beadle
 Jno. J. Pells
 Jno. H. Beadle
 A. S. Hatch
 Chandler Holbrook
 George Nagell
 Henry D. Hayt
 William J. Hughson
 Charles Delafield
 D. B. Lent
 J. Grant
 Samuel Pine
 Isaac Roosevelt
 P. Potter
 Henry Whinfield
 John Adriance
 E. C. Southwick
 Henry Pine